

Senate Engrossed

group home monitoring program; continuation

State of Arizona
Senate
Fifty-seventh Legislature
Second Regular Session
2026

SENATE BILL 1179

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTION 36-595.03, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; AMENDING LAWS 2022, CHAPTER 316, SECTION 4, AS AMENDED BY LAWS 2025, CHAPTER 241, SECTION 13; RELATING TO DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

2 Section 1. Section 36-595.03, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended
3 to read:

4 36-595.03. Developmental disabilities group home monitoring
5 program; clients with complex needs; designated
6 entity duties; expedited referral system;
7 reporting requirements; program review;
8 definition

9 A. The developmental disabilities group home monitoring program is
10 established in the department. ~~Subject to available appropriations,~~ The
11 department shall contract with the entity that has been designated by this
12 state to operate the protection and advocacy system for persons with
13 developmental disabilities in this state pursuant to the developmental
14 disabilities assistance and bill of rights act of 2000 (42 United States
15 Code sections 15041 through 15045) to conduct the program.

16 B. The designated entity, at a minimum, shall do all of the
17 following beginning January 1, 2026:

18 1. Monitor in person the group homes that provide services to
19 clients with complex needs to determine, at a minimum, whether:

20 (a) The client with complex needs receives the services identified
21 in the person-centered service plan of the client with complex needs,
22 including medication monitoring and habilitation treatment, as applicable.

23 (b) The provision of services identified in the person-centered
24 service plan of the client with complex needs has been effective in
25 addressing the complex needs.

26 (c) A behavior treatment plan is in place, is compliant with
27 department rules and has had a positive impact on behaviors that interfered
28 with the ability of the client with complex needs to live safely in the
29 community.

30 2. Use a monitoring tool to assess whether the following criteria
31 were satisfied:

32 (a) The client with complex needs received the physical health and
33 behavioral health services that the client requires as outlined by the
34 client's health care providers and person-centered service plan, including
35 regular physical activity with modification for the client's physical
36 disability, if any.

37 (b) The client with complex needs had the client's dietary
38 requirements met, including compliance with all dietary orders from the
39 client's health care providers.

40 (c) The food provided in the group home met generally accepted
41 dietary standards and guidelines for healthy Americans in accordance with
42 the United States department of agriculture dietary guidelines.

43 (d) The guardian of the client with complex needs and the client,
44 as applicable, were included in all decisions made regarding the client

1 and informed of any changes to the client's regular activities or daily
2 routine.

3 (e) Group home direct care staff demonstrated the knowledge and
4 skills required to meet the medical and behavioral health care needs of
5 the client with complex needs as outlined in the client's person-centered
6 service plan and behavior treatment plan, if applicable.

7 (f) The client with complex needs had access to and used all
8 prescribed adaptive equipment.

9 (g) Group home direct care staff worked with the behavioral health
10 providers serving the client with complex needs as allowed by the client
11 or client's guardian and as outlined in the client's person-centered
12 service plan and behavior treatment plan, if applicable.

13 (h) The group home of the client with complex needs complied with
14 applicable incident reporting policies, including documenting and
15 reporting physical interventions and any other emergency measures taken.

16 3. Complete follow-up monitoring reviews for group homes that were
17 monitored pursuant to paragraph 1 of this subsection and that the
18 designated entity identified as having significant quality of care
19 concerns.

20 4. Compile and complete both of the following:

21 (a) Monthly reports to the department detailing the results of all
22 monitoring from the previous month, including identified systemic issues
23 and recommendations for improvement.

24 (b) A comprehensive annual report of all observations and outcomes
25 during the preceding year.

26 C. On or before January 1, 2026, the department shall establish an
27 expedited referral system to ensure that copies of all incident reports,
28 quality of care complaints, investigation records and client service
29 requests for each group home monitored pursuant to subsection B, paragraph
30 1 of this section are forwarded to the designated entity for review and
31 analysis pursuant to this section. If the designated entity identifies
32 concerns during its follow-up monitoring reviews, the information shall be
33 provided to the department, which shall share the allegation with the
34 service provider and the independent oversight committee on persons with
35 developmental disabilities established by section 41-3801.

36 D. The department shall:

37 1. Educate service providers on the requirements of the
38 developmental disabilities group home monitoring program and the role of
39 the designated entity.

40 2. Provide the designated entity with access to all necessary
41 information to complete the monitoring requirements pursuant to subsection
42 B of this section.

43 3. Provide the designated entity with quarterly written reports
44 responding to the issues identified in the designated entity's monthly
45 reports from the previous quarter, including identifying the actions taken

1 in response to the identified systemic issues and recommendations received
2 from the designated entity.

3 4. Publish on the department's public website all of the following:

4 (a) All of the designated entity's monthly and annual reports
5 pursuant to subsection B, paragraph 4 of this section.

6 (b) All quarterly reports from the department pursuant to paragraph
7 3 of this subsection.

8 (c) The monitoring tool and related instructions used by the
9 designated entity to monitor group homes pursuant to this section.

10 E. On or before January 15, 2026 and each January 15 thereafter, the
11 designated entity shall report to the governor, the president of the
12 senate and the speaker of the house of representatives, and provide a copy
13 of the report to the secretary of state and the independent oversight
14 committee on persons with developmental disabilities established by
15 section 41-3801, regarding the observations and outcomes of the program,
16 including systemic issues that were identified, the quality of services
17 provided to persons with developmental disabilities who have complex needs
18 in this state and any recommendations for service improvements.

19 F. On or before January 1, 2030, the health and human services
20 committees, or their successor committees, in the senate and the house of
21 representatives shall:

22 1. Review the reports submitted pursuant to subsection E of this
23 section and the department's responses pursuant to subsection D, paragraph
24 3 of this section to the designated entity's monthly reports, including
25 observations and outcomes of the program, systemic issues that were
26 identified, the quality of services provided to persons with developmental
27 disabilities who have complex needs in this state, any recommendations for
28 service improvements and actions taken by the department.

29 2. Determine whether the program should be continued, modified or
30 discontinued.

31 G. For the purposes of this section, "client with complex needs" or
32 "client" means a client with dual disorders, including psychiatric
33 disorders and developmental disabilities, who engages in behaviors that
34 are disruptive, socially inappropriate or harmful or dangerous to self or
35 others, that interfere with functioning and quality of life or that may
36 cause destruction of property.

37 Sec. 2. Laws 2022, chapter 316, section 4, as amended by Laws 2025,
38 chapter 241, section 13, is amended to read:

39 Sec. 4. Delayed repeal

40 Section 36-595.03, Arizona Revised Statutes, as amended by this act,
41 is repealed from and after December 31, ~~2027~~ 2032.